Requirements for Qualified Nonprofit Conservation Organizations and River Management Organizations

In order to receive River Planning or Protection grants, nonprofit conservation organizations and river management organizations must meet specified requirements. The DNR reviews organizations to verify that requirements have been met. If DNR determines the organization to be qualified, the organization will then be considered eligible to apply for the grants. A list of qualified organizations is maintained by the DNR. Organizations that are not designated as qualified by the DNR are not eligible to apply for grants.

Nonprofit Conservation organizations

To be eligible, a nonprofit conservation organization must be:
- Tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.
- Show that acquisition of property for conservation purposes is one of the organization's primary purposes.

Nonprofit conservation organizations must submit the following to the DNR Regional River Coordinator or Environmental Grant Specialist for review:
- A copy of their IRS Section 501(c)(3) confirmation letter.
- Their by-laws and articles of incorporation.

River Management Organizations

To be eligible, a River Management Organization must:
- Be a nonprofit organization under ch. 181 Wis. Stats.
- Specify in its articles of incorporation or bylaws that a substantial purpose of its incorporation is to support the protection or improvement of one or more rivers for the benefit of the general public
- **Or** (If not specified in the organization's articles of incorporation or bylaws) demonstrate that the substantial purpose of its recent past actions was to support the protection or improvement of one or more rivers for the benefit of the general public.
- **Must not** limit membership or deny the right of any member or any class of members to vote.
- Membership fees **cannot** exceed $50.00

River Management Organizations must submit a River Management Organization Application (Form 8700-287) and a copy of their organization's bylaws and articles of incorporation to the DNR Regional River Coordinator or Environmental Grant Specialist for review: